

Seeking Nominees for Annette P Schmitt UnSung Hero Award

September 11, 2006

LACONIA: Nomination packets are now available for the Annette P. Schmitt UnSung Hero Award, presented each year by the Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families. This award recognizes someone who has shown a long-standing commitment to children and families in Belknap



Previous winners of the Schmitt UnSung Hero Award, Dave Tryon (L) and Deb Williams (R) meet with Kathy Calvin, Annette Schmitt Fund Administrator, to discuss plans for the 2007 award. Presented by the Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families, this annual award honors someone who has worked tirelessly and quietly on behalf of children and families in Belknap County. Completed nomination packets are due November 15th.

County through behind-the-scenes activities without any expectation of recognition. This award is intended to seek out and recognize someone who has been involved with children and families during the past year and over a sustained period of time but who is not well known by the general public.

According to Judy Buswell, Resource and Planning Coordinator with the Belknap County Citizens Council, eligible candidates are those “low profile” individuals who either volunteer on behalf of children or families or who provide services to children and families far beyond the scope of their employment.

“There are several key guidelines to determine if potential nominees are a good match for this Schmitt UnSung Hero Award. We are looking for nominations of people who are contributing widely to well being of children and families in Belknap County but who are not prominent or visible in the community because of their work, not appearing in the media frequently, or not already been publicly recognized for their work,” says Buswell.

Past winners include Dave Tryon (2006) of Tilton for the many hours he spends each week developing and implementing after-school activities for students in the Winnisquam Regional School District. Dawn McCartney of Barnstead (2005) was honored because of her tireless efforts in her Barnstead community to develop resources for children and families. Paul Plimpton, of Belmont and a sports coach was recognized in 2004 because of his emphasis on developing the full potential of the students he coached rather than just build winning teams. In 2003, Deb Williams of Laconia was cited because of the numerous hours she spent coordinating P.A.C.T. and Laconia Memorial Middle School activities. In 2002, the first year this award was presented, six Juvenile Probation and Parole Officers with the Laconia District Office, NH DHHS, were recognized for their outstanding work with juveniles.

The 2007 recipient will be announced by Special Justice Willard Martin during the annual Belknap County Convocation on Children and Families to be held at the Winnepesaukee Expo Center on Tuesday, January 23, 2007. The winner will receive an individual award and his or her name will be added to the engraved plaque that hangs in the Council offices.

Says Judge Martin who is Trustee of the Schmitt Fund, “This award highlights the efforts of someone who goes the extra mile on behalf of children and families in Belknap County.”

The Schmitt UnSung Hero Award honors New Hampshire resident, the late Annette P. Schmitt, who left a generous bequest to support programs and projects that improve the lives of children and families in Belknap County and the State. Over the past several years this fund has been the primary resource for sustaining a number of comprehensive systemic changes in Belknap County, including juvenile justice practices, the Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families, and the introduction of Community Justice principles throughout the County.

Nomination Forms are available at the Citizens Council office in the Busiel Mill, Mill Plaza in downtown Laconia or at the County Commissioners Office at 34 County Drive in Laconia. Forms can also be downloaded from the Citizens Council website www.bccj.org or by calling the Council office at 528-3185. Completed Nomination Forms are due by 4pm on Wednesday, November 15, 2006.

- 30 -